

Career Planning Myths



Myth You have to go to college to get a good job.

Truth No degree guarantees a good job. Many jobs that pay well and are interesting don't require a Bachelor's degree. Conversely, some degrees are more useful than others in the job market, and some occupations requiring a degree pay more than others. Usually you do have to get post-secondary education of some kind to get a good job. Community colleges and tech schools offer shorter training for some very good jobs.

Myth There is one right job just for me.

Truth Just like there are thousands of people you could choose from for a compatible spouse, there are many, many jobs that will suit your personality, use your talents and incorporate your interests. Don't limit yourself by limiting your thinking.

Myth You must have experience to find a job.

Truth Not always. Aptitude, attitude, potential and a willingness to learn can get you hired. The skills you have acquired through things other than a paid job can help you get a job too.

Myth Everyone starts their career after graduating and proceeds in a straight line toward their career goals.

Truth This is actually very rare now. Most people change jobs, and even whole careers, several times in the course of a lifetime.

Myth You make a career plan, stick to it, and it's done.

Truth Career plans are revisited and refined all the time. You can change career directions whenever your needs dictate and your talents and resources allow.

Myth There is a specific set of job duties for every occupation.

Truth Job duties often evolve based on an individual's capabilities and the needs of the employer. People in positions of the same name often perform different tasks.

Myth First college, then a good paying job and I'm set for life.

Truth Some things you can't control like the economy, downsizing, outsourcing or technological advances can throw a monkey wrench in your well-planned life. It pays to be flexible, keep your skills up-to-date and be prepared for change. Also, get in the habit early of living within your means and saving consistently—just in case.